

COIN in Helmand Province

After the Clear – Thoughts and Tips on Non Kinetic Actions

1st Bn, 5th Marines





Partner at the lowest level.
ANSF enters compounds and buildings first.



Share meals with the Afghans you work with as often as possible. Every day is acceptable.



PCCs work.
Do them by the numbers.



Use simple, clear signs to convey your message.
They degrade quickly, so have back-ups pre-made.



Have a team dedicated to running your Radio-in-a-box. The enemy doesn't have one and it gives you a distinct advantage in timely dissemination of your message.



Encourage positive ANSF interaction with the people.
Build trust between them.



Make IO flyers all
about the ANSF
and GIRoA



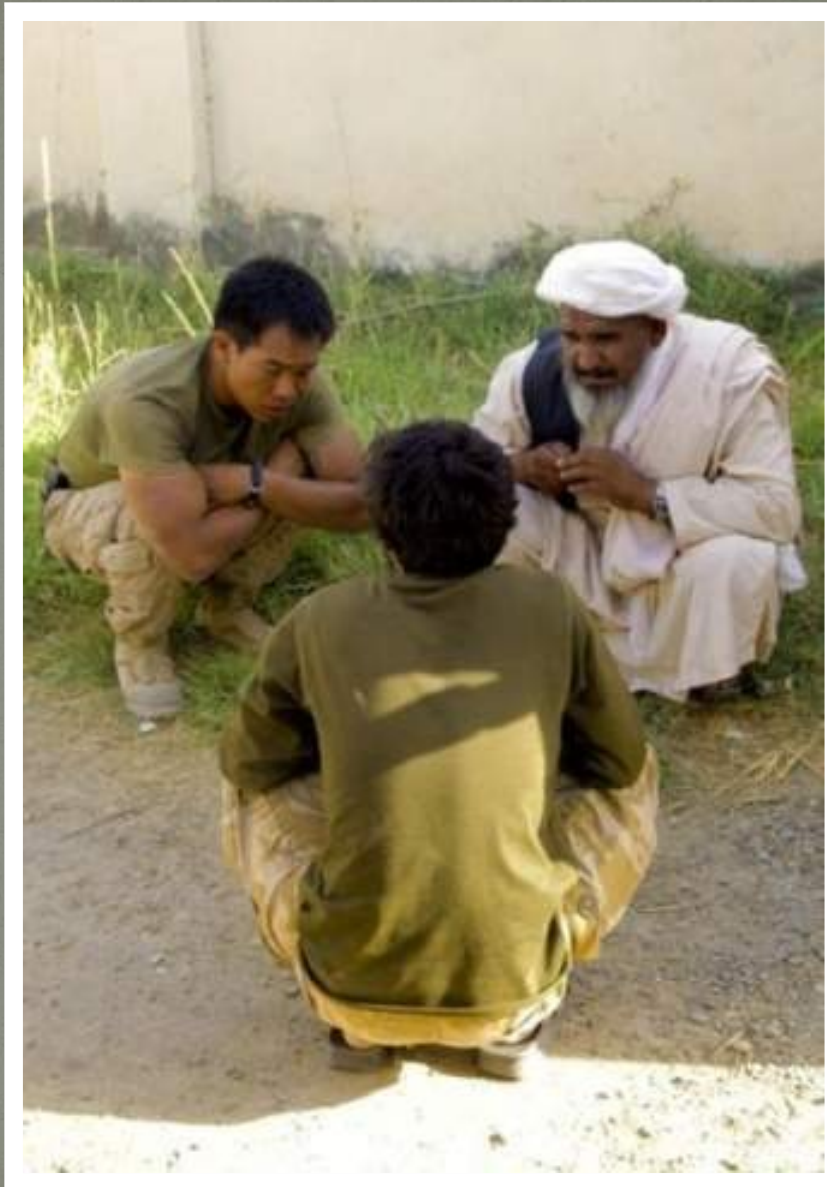
Use ANSF to distribute IO materials.



Stay to answer questions about the IO flyers you hand out.



Always be prepared for gatherings of elders.
Have something short, but important to say.



Mimic the locals
when you interact
with them.
Accentuate the
things that make
us similar.



This wheelbarrow is the most expensive thing this man owns.
Treat it accordingly.



Be prepared for water crossings and water recoveries.



Bridges can be massive improvements for local villages.
Let them use them.



Live with the ANSF
you are partnered
with.



You don't need much to fight.
Most seabags stay packed.



You can't search every trailer, but search enough to keep the EF from moving things on the roads. Make them move cross country.



These boys are approaching fighting age.
What have you done to keep them from becoming the enemy?



Moon dust gets everywhere.
Maintenance takes extra time and is constant.



Not every person digging next to a road is putting in an IED. Sometimes they are putting in home-made power lines – helping themselves.



Every Marine
should be a
combat aidman.



And so should
every Afghan
soldier.



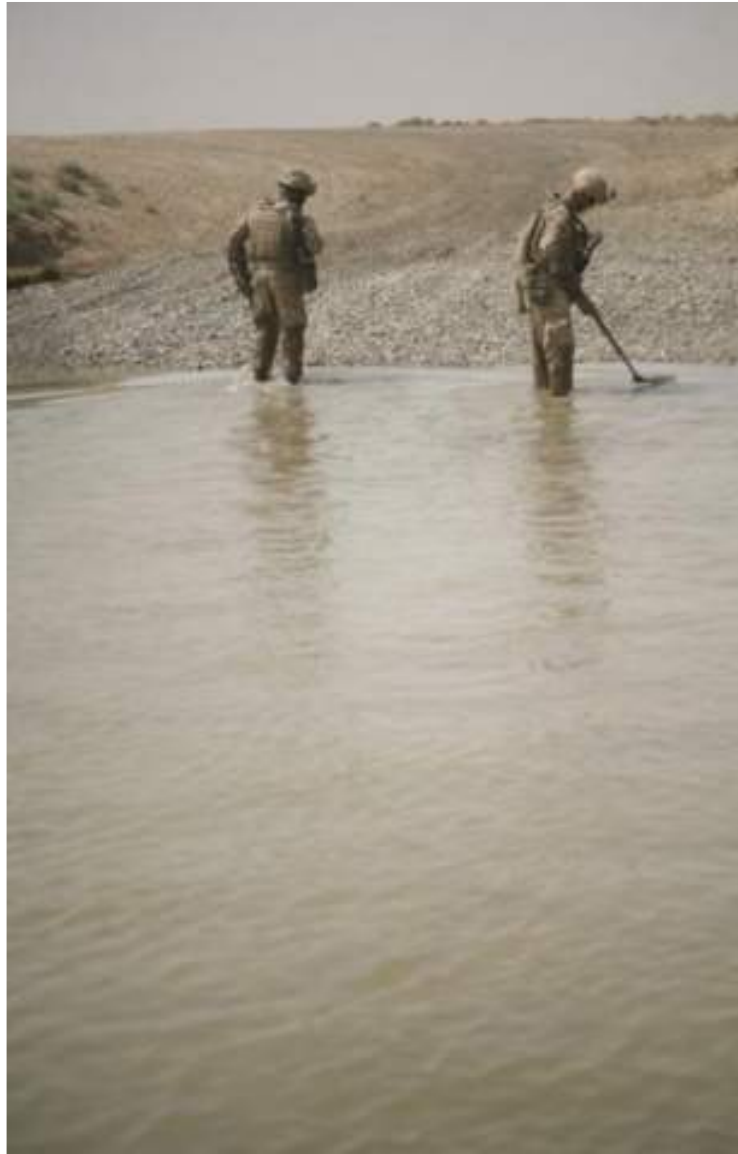
Polaroid pictures are a great tool.
This is the first picture this man ever had of his family.



Dust mitigation is an issue.
Gravel is important and is a constant need.



Locals know more about the area than you do.
Ask their advice.



Never be in a rush.
Check every likely
IED site, even if it
means wet boots
every day.



Forward position your surgeons and IDCs.



ANSF on motorcycles are more reliable than Ravens.



Drink tea when it is offered.
You'll get more and better information.



When these kids
are 40, what will
they tell their kids
about Americans?



Treat ANSF casualties just as we do our own.



Have a plan for Memorial Services.



Protect the people where they gather.



Prepare food and eat with your ANSF partners.



Teach the ANSF to do proper personnel searches, then let them do most of the searching. But watch them do it.



When you pull out a local farmer's tractor, he remembers, and sometimes returns the favor.



Remove the reminders of war when you are able.



Afghan roads are not roads in the traditional sense. Be prepared for them to collapse.
Practice recoveries.



Using metal
detectors takes
practice.



Kids will tell you things their parents won't.



TCAPF and
ASCOPE data help
you understand
your area.



You can search people without making them your enemy.



Maps will fool you.
On the left is a road. This is a bridge.



Be wary of new mud on old walls.



Once the resin is
out, poppy is just
cooking fuel.



Help your GIRoA partners govern well.
Guide them to good decisions.



This was one of ten sheep a man owned.
It made a difference to him that we saved one.



If you need things moved, use Afghans.
They'll amaze you.



Get the kids into
school.
It's the only long
term solution.



When meeting
with locals, show
ISAF, GIRoA, ANP
and ANA as a
team.



Joint/combined briefings take time, but are vital to success.



Not all 5 gallon jugs are HME holders.
But many are, so keep your eyes open for them.



Wells are cheap.
A new water
source for a
village is
priceless.



Scout your AO for the places that grow the most poppy.
Focus your alternative agriculture efforts in the areas where you'll do the most good.



Help Afghans learn English.
You'll learn Pashto in the process and become a more capable counterinsurgent.





As one person is interacting, have another doing combat profiling.



Distribution of humanitarian supplies can make big money, unless there are signs of corruption.

Then you are worse off than if there had been nothing distributed at all.



Make the Taliban
afraid to go into
the corn.



Education will take time to develop.
Get the kids in school even while the building is being fixed.



ANSF vehicles can go some places ours can't.
And they show that this is an ANSF led patrol.



LEPs can help you ensure you gather evidence properly.



Be prepared to make the Pashto signs you need.



The ANSF will
participate in a PT
program.
Help them
develop one.



Write down the things you see and hear on patrol.
Otherwise you won't remember everything.



When you treat
Afghan children,
keep their parents
in the room.



When elders and children integrate into your patrol, you have earned their trust.
And it means they are now confident in the security you've brought.



Canals are everywhere. Be prepared to be wet on every patrol.



Be nice until it's time to not be nice. These kids will be fighting age soon.
Did you help them choose sides?



Listen to people's problems and ideas.
Never be in a rush to end a conversation.



Have enough
people who know
how to run BATS.



The roads are terrible.
Know how to recover a vehicle.



The Afghans will do things we won't.
Sometimes that means they are the best avenue to get the job done.



These tools are temperamental.
They take training to know how to work them.



Culvert guards don't have to be fancy.



The trail on the left is on the map as a road.
Build local roads where they are needed.



Putting in a bridge where there has never been one is a big deal.
Expect the community to be involved.



Be prepared to speak in a mosque.
What you say here will be remembered.



The roads are bad.
Plan movement times accordingly.



Listen to local elders.
And take your gear off when you're with them.



Make contact with
people who return
to your AO.
Welcome them
home.



Put out security,
then take your
helmet off when
you talk to people.



When the media visits, get them to interact with the locals.



VIPs need to interact with the local leaders.
No PowerPoint's, brief as you walk.



Eat the local food
with the locals.



\$500 can build things that change how people live.



Footbridges
matter. Let
locals do the
building.



ANSF respond to ISAF visits.
Get them involved.



People dig at the side of roads and fields for many reasons – not just to put in IEDs.



Don't assume a building isn't a mosque, just because it doesn't look like one.



Plan operations with your ANSF partners.



Radio in a box works best when the locals have radios to listen.



Plan to sling in gear and supplies. Recover the slings and get them back to the ACE on the next available flight.



Combined USMC/ANSF search teams are effective.



Suspicious packages are not always dangerous.



Bring Combat Camera.



Combined patrol bases – combined duties.



Afghan walls are substantial and you don't always know what's inside.



So exercise tactical patience.



Have GIRoA officials hand out radios.
Have them use the radio to speak to their people.



Watch what people sell in the bazaars.
Know how to recognize IED components.



Not everything
that looks like
heroin is heroin.



Civilians will pop up in the middle of a firefight.
Protect them.



Combat profile everyone.



Sheep and goats are a form of route clearance.



Link traditional tribal and village elders with GIROA leaders.



Shuras don't have to be big to be effective.



Hire local men to do the things that they want and need done.



LEPs can help you with proper evidence handling.



This man knows if you are sincere.
You can't win if you don't earn his
trust.



Returning families are a sign of progress.



Make people feel
safe enough to
send their kids to
school.



Things will be
frustrating.
Don't get
frustrated.